

CHARLES B. EADES.

JANUARY 20, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ANDERSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 8117.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8117) for increase of pension of Charles B. Eades, submit the following report:

It is shown by the records of the War Department that Charles B. Eades was enrolled at Edmonton, Ky., October 10, 1861, for three years as a private in Company E, Eleventh Regiment Kentucky Volunteers, and that he was mustered in December 9, 1861, at Camp Calhoun, Ky. He was transferred from Company E to Company K, same regiment, on January 1, 1862. On the muster rolls of the company dated February 28, 1862, he is reported "absent sick at Nashville," and on the rolls dated June 30, 1862, he is reported "absent, sent to hospital March 17, 1862." Furlough of discharge, April 24. Absent at the special muster of August 18, 1862, with remark, "On discharge furlough." August 31, 1862, he is reported, "absent on discharge furlough," and so continued to be reported, until August 31, 1864, he is reported present, with remark, "Returned for duty August 17, 1864." The roll dated October 31, 1864, shows him present, and the muster-out roll reports him mustered out with the company December 16, 1864. Claim under general law for pension for affection of spine as the result of measles was rejected October 28, 1865, because of no ratable disability. Claim under law of 1890 (filed July 9, 1890) alleges kidney disease and loss of sight of right eye and defective sight of left.

In medical examination January 7, 1891, he was rated ten-eighteenths for loss of sight of right eye and four-eighteenths for defective sight of left eye and allowed a pension of \$12 per month.

Dr. F. M. Stites, of Hopkinsville, states April 13, 1896, that he is a practicing physician, and that he has this day examined Charles B. Eades and finds his left eye is nearly blind from a cataract and his right eye totally blind. The affiant also states that he knows Mr. Charles B. Eades to be a worthy citizen and that the blindness is not the result of any vice upon his part, and as a result of his eye trouble he is totally disabled for labor of any kind.

On the same date Dr. E. P. Russell testified to substantially the same facts.

On January 7, 1897, Dr. William E. Reynolds, being first duly sworn, states:

My post-office address is Hopkinsville, Ky., and I am a regular practicing physician, and have examined Mr. Charles B. Eades, who states that he was a private in Company K, Eleventh Regiment Kentucky Infantry, and find him totally blind from cataract.

January 8, 1897, J. M. Dennis, M. D., being duly sworn, states:

I am a regular practicing physician in Hopkinsville, Ky., and have this day examined Charles B. Eades, who states that he was late a private in Company K, Eleventh Kentucky Infantry Volunteers, and find his disability to be that of total blindness of both eyes, caused by a cataract. My post-office is Hopkinsville, Ky. I have no interest in the prosecution of this claim. This affidavit is in my own handwriting and dictation.

All the affidavits presented in this report and others to which your committee has had access were duly sworn to and attested by the county clerk. No pay or allowance was made to this soldier during his absence from active service on "discharge furlough." The evidence in this case clearly shows the frequent sickness of this soldier during his army service. It is further shown that he is without any means of support except the small pension he now receives, which is entirely inadequate to his support in his present condition. While the evidence does not seem directly to connect his present deplorable condition to his army service, his blind and utterly helpless condition strongly appeal for a sufficient increase of pension to shield him from absolute want and suffering during his few remaining years.

Your committee recommend that the bill do **pass**.

○